GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1444
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2008
CONTAMINATED RIVERS WATER
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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the water of some rivers has been found to be poisonous;

(b) if so, the names of the rivers tested for poisonous water;

(c) whether the scheme to link such rivers with others have been withdrawn; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES(SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) monitors water quality of all important water bodies located on 206 rivers of the country. The presence of contaminants such as toxic metals beyond permissible limits can be considered as poisonous. The CPCB has measured toxic metals in 120 rivers. The results indicate that the toxic metals i.e. Arsenic, Copper, Cadmium, Chromium Total, Nickel, Mercury and Lead were detected in some of the rivers, the levels of which were mostly found within permissible limit prescribed by Bureau of Indian Standards on Drinking Water Standards, except some rivers. The Chromium Total exceeded only in 02 number of rivers, Copper exceeded in 14 number of rivers and Cadmium exceeded in 05 number of rivers.

(b) Name of the rivers tested for toxic metals is provided at Annexure-I.

(c)&(d) The Ministry of Water Resources (erstwhile Ministry of Irrigation) and Central Water Commission formulated a National Perspective Plan (NPP) for Water Resources Development in 1980. The NPP comprises of two components viz.
(i) Peninsular Rivers Development and
(ii) Himalayan Rivers Development and envisages transfer of water from water surplus areas to water deficit regions. National Water Development Agency (NWDA) was set up in 1982 to study the feasibility of Inter-basin water transfer proposals and give a concrete shape to NPP. Based on various studies NWDA has identified 30 links (16 Peninsular & 14 Himalayan) for preparation of Feasibility Reports (FRs). Out of these, FRs of 14 links under Peninsular Components & 2 links (Indian portion) under Himalayan Component have already been completed. Further, NWDA has also taken up the work of preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for one priority link under Peninsular Component namely Ken-Betwa Link.